

0.0 **INTRODUCTION**

- 0.1 This forum has been organized by the Public Affairs Section of the US Consulate General in Lagos for American Fulbright scholars in Nigeria.
- 0.2 We wish to use this medium to further enlighten ourselves on the following expectations in the spirit of existing cordial relationship between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and United State of America.
- 0.3 I will begin by stating that all immigrants except those exempted by the Nigerian Immigration Act, are required to be in possession of a valid passport endorsed with a valid Nigerian Visa /Entry Permit before they may be admitted into Nigeria for any purpose.
- 0.4 A Nigerian Visa/Permit can be basically divided into two categories:
 - a) **Entry Visa / Permit** – Those issued outside Nigerian and can be obtained from Nigerian Embassies and Missions around the world.
 - b) **Re – entry Visas / Permits** – Those issued within Nigeria by Immigration Officers to enable mostly resident foreigners travelling out to return without going to any Nigerian mission abroad for same.

1.0 **TYPES OF NIGERIAN VISAS/PERMITS OBTAINED OUTSIDE NIGERIA**

- 1.0.1 The following are the types of Nigerian Visas/Entry Permits obtained outside Nigeria, for different purposes and uses. They include:
 - a. Transit Visa / Permit (Direct and Indirect)
 - b. Business Visa / Permit
 - c. Tourist Visa / Permit
 - d. Diplomatic Visa / Permit
 - e. Subject to Regularization Visa / Permit (STR)
 - f. Temporary Work Permit Visa / Permit (TWP)

2.0 **TRANSIT VISA / PERMIT**

- 2.1 This is granted to the following persons:

- a. This category of Visas / Permits are valid for stay for up to 48hours and are ***not for any form of employment***. It is issued to transiting passengers with confirmed tickets for onward destination to another country other than Nigeria.
- b. It is also granted to Seamen and Pilots who are joining or taking over ships or planes in Nigeria.

2.2REQUIREMENTS

2.2.0 All applicants for Transit Visa/Permit are required to possess the following:

- a. Valid Passport with minimum of 6 months validity
- b. Valid Visa to onward destination outside Nigeria
- c. Confirmed airline ticket to final destination
- d. Evidence of sufficient funds.

3.0 BUSINESS VISA / PERMIT

- 3.1 This Visa/ Permit is issued to Businessmen and Investors visiting Nigeria for business discussions. It is usually valid for 90days. ***Any form of employment is prohibited.***

3.2 REQUIREMENTS

3.2.0 All applicants are to present the following to the Immigration Foreign Attachés for processing:

- a. Forms to be completed by applicant on-line.
- b. Evidence of sufficient funds for personal maintenance
- c. Passport with minimum of 6 months validity
- d. Return tickets.

4.0 TOURIST VISA / PERMIT

- 4.1 These are issued to person wishing to visit Nigeria for the purpose of tourism or see family members.

4.2 REQUIREMENTS

4.2.0 Applicants for this facility are to produce the following documents:

- a. Valid passport with minimum of 6 months validity

- b. Valid Visa for onward destination for those proceeding to other countries.
- c. Valid airline return ticket
- d. Evidence of sufficient funds for personal maintenance
- e. Appropriate Nigerian Insurance cover.

4.2.1 Tourist Visas/Permits are usually for stay of not more than 30days and could be extended in special circumstances.

4.2.2 Any form of employment with this visa is prohibited.

5.0 SUBJECT TO REGULARIZATION VISA/PERMIT (STR)

5.1 This is issued to expatriate employees of individuals, corporate bodies or Government for the purposes of taking up employment in Nigeria. They are obtained only from Nigerian Missions in the countries where applicants are domiciled or have resided for at least 6months.

5.2. This type of visa is also issued to student and Nigerwives.

5.3 REQUIREMENTS

5.3.0 Applicants for this visa/permit are produce the following:

- a. Valid passport with minimum of 6months validity,
- b. Offer of appointment
- c. Acceptance of offer
- d. Letter of invitation accepting Immigration Responsibilities,
- e. Credentials of applicant/CV
- f. Duly completed Imm 22 (on – line)
- g. For Chief Executive Officer of Corporate Organizations, the minutes of board resolution (Extract of Board Resolution) is also needed.

5.4 Initial entry is valid for 90days within which it is expected that the process of regularization as working resident is completed.

6 .0 TEMPORARY WORK PERMIT (TWP)

6.1 These are issued to experts invited by Corporate Bodies/Organizations to provide specialized skilled services, such as, after sales installations, maintenance, repairs

of machines and equipment. These categories of Visa/Permits are only approved by the Comptroller-General.

6.2 REQUIREMENTS

6.2.0 Applicants are required to present for processing:

- a. Letter of Invitation/request, accepting Immigration responsibility by inviting individuals or organizations,
- b. Confirmed airline ticket,
- c. Certificate of incorporation of inviting company,
- d. Copies of Data page of applicant's passport.

6.2.1 Initial entry is for 50 days and any extension can only be effected by the Comptroller-General.

7.0 RE-ENTRY VISA/PERMIT

7.1 Re-entry Visas/Permits are issued to applicants who are actually in Nigeria at the time of application. This applies to expatriate employees resident in Nigeria.

7.2 REQUIREMENTS

7.2.0 The following are the requirements for processing re-entry visa/permit; they include:

- a. Re-entry Visas/Entry Permit application (Form IM22)
- b. A letter of request from employer/Organization certifying that the applicant is returning to his/her employment and accepting Immigration responsibility (IR) on behalf of the applicant.
- c. Valid International Passport
- d. Evidence of payment of appropriate fees
- e. Evidence of residence (residence permit)
- f. Two passports-size photographs where applicable.

7.3 APPLICATION FOR RE-ENTRY VISAS/PERMITS FOR EXPATRIATES AWAITING

REGULARIZATION OF STAY (STR)

7.3.0 All expatriates employees with STR visas/permits and are "awaiting regularization of stay approval from ABUJA" shall be granted re-entry

visas/permits on the request for a period of not more than 3months by the State Comptrollers.

- 7.3.1 All applications for re-entry visa/permit for Nigerwives shall be processed and issued for indefinite period.

8.0 EXTENSION OF VISITING PASS

8.1 Holders of visiting pass who desire an extension of their stay are to submit an application for such facility at the State Command within the area of their stay.

8.2 Such requests shall be made in writing by sponsoring person or authority accepting immigration responsibility (IR); they are also to provide the following:

- a. Produce a valid International Passport, and,
- b. A return ticket to the next destination.

8.3 Applications for extensions of Visiting Visas that satisfy the above requirements shall be approved for an extension of a period not exceeding 1month if given one month at the point of entry. Comptrollers of State Commands are to approve such extensions not exceeding a total aggregate of 2months from date of entry.

8.4 Any request for extensions of Passes exceeding 2 months stay are to be referred to the Assistant Comptroller-General/Zonal Coordinator in charge of Zones.

8.5 Any further extensions should be directed to the Comptroller-General in Abuja.

9.0 POSSESSION OF A RESIDENCE PERMIT

9.1 All immigrants, and unless exempted under the immigration Act, are required to be in possession of valid residence permits to reside in Nigeria.

9.2 No residence permit issued to an immigrant shall be valid for entry or stay in Nigeria unless the immigrant is in possession of a valid visa/permit (STR), except if exempted by the Immigration Act or approved by the CGIS.

9.3 REQUIREMENTS

9.3.0 All applications for issuance of residence permits shall be addressed to the Comptroller-General and contain the following requirements:

- a. Application letter from the employer requesting regularization of stay and acceptance of Immigration responsibility (IR).
- b. Letter of appointment/employment.
- c. Letter of acceptance of appointment/employment.
- d. Evidence of payment (receipts or 'e'-payment print-out).
- e. Completed form Imm22 with 3 passports size photographs.
- f. Copy of current Quota approval.
- g. Valid Passport with STR Visa endorsement and copies of relevant pages of the applicant's passport.
- h. Registration with professional bodies for professionals.

10.0 IN THE CASE OF STUDENTS

10.1 For individual foreigners granted admission and wish to regularise their stay, these are the requirements:

- a. Formal request from the student's Institution recommending application and accept Immigration responsibility (IR).
- b. A copy of relevant pages of student's passport with STR Visa/Permit endorsement.
- c. Evidence of payment of School fees.
- d. Copies of relevant pages of student's passport with STR Visa/Permit endorsement.
- e. 3 passport size photographs of applicant.

11.0 NIGERWIVES (I.E. FOREIGN WOMEN MARRIED TO NIGERIAN MEN)

11.1 The following requirements are to be fulfilled for regularizing Nigerwives, they include:

- a. Formal letter of request from Nigeria husband accepting Immigration responsibility (IR)
- b. Formal letter of request from the wife
- c. Photocopies of the first 5 pages of husband's Nigerian standard passport.
- d. Copy of Marriage Certificate
- e. Duly completed form Imm22 with 3 recent passport size photographs

- f. Applicant's National passport.
- 11.2 Nigerwives who arrives with other visas other than an STR, such application shall be referred to the CGI for approval
- 11.3 A residence permit shall be issued subject to such conditions such as, the area such person shall reside; duration of stays; occupation/profession or any provision the Comptroller-General of Immigration may direct or require to endorsed the permit.
- 11.4 Facilities for Nigerwives are issued gratis.

12.0 SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS

- 12.1 This special status is granted to foreigner married to Nigerian women.
- 12.2 Application for special status shall be submitted to the office of the Hon. Minister for Interior with the following documents:
 - a. Formal letter from Nigerian wife accepting immigration responsibility (IR).
 - b. Formal letter of request from husband.
 - c. Photocopies of the first 5 pages of the wife's Nigerian national passport.
 - d. Duly completed form Imm22 in triplicate, with 3 recent passport size photographs.
 - e. Applicant's national passport.
 - f. Evidence of payment for residence permit.

13.0 CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The issues raised in this discourse are by no means exhaustive, both in content and scope and are meant for a target audience as we have today.
- 13.2 For the benefit of the peculiar situation or circumstance of the Fulbright Scholars, please apply for an STR visa explaining the non-profit, non-commercial and humanitarian/ academic nature of their visit which may last beyond six (6) months.
- 13.3 This we believe will assist them in obtaining residential status which in turn will enable them to open and operate bank accounts in Nigeria.